

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

An amendment to the Abstract is shown in the replacement Abstract attached as a separate page to this paper.

Amend paragraph [0012] as follows:

[0012] In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, a routing topology is provided for a bus system in which every pair of signal lines ~~are~~ is provided with shielding. In this manner, signal cross-talk is effectively limited to only one signal pair while minimizing the number of pins required on a connector. Further, if these signals are a differential signal pair, then the coupling can be beneficial from the standpoint of signal integrity. By shielding only every pair of signal lines, the number of connector pins is significantly reduced, thus reducing the size and cost of the connector and module on which the connector is provided.

Delete paragraph [0013] entirely as being duplicative of paragraph [0014]:

~~[0013] These and other advantages and features of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following detailed description of the invention which is provided in connection with the accompanying drawings.~~

Amend paragraph [0022] as follows:

[0022] In accordance with the present invention, a connector is provided for a bus system in which every pair of signal lines ~~are~~ is provided with shielding, thereby effectively limiting signal cross talk to only one signal pair while reducing the number of connector pins required. Further, if these signals are a differential signal pair, then the coupling can be beneficial from the standpoint of signal integrity.

Amend paragraph [0025] as follows:

[0025] Furthermore, if the signals in each pair of signal lines are differential signals, i.e., the signals are assigned as signal+, signal-, ground, signal+, signal-, ground, etc., the complementary signal pair will couple, but the differential signal pairs will not couple significantly with the other signals. The coupling of the complementary signals from each pair can be beneficial and desirable from the standpoint of signal integrity, thereby providing additional benefits of the routing topology as opposed to the prior art.

Amend paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] Thus, in accordance with the present invention, a routing topology and connector are provided for a bus system in which every pair of signal lines ~~are~~ is provided with shielding, thereby effectively limiting the signal cross-talk to only one signal pair while reducing the number of connector pins required. Further, if each pair of signals ~~are~~ is a differential signal pair, then the coupling can be beneficial from the standpoint of signal integrity.